

Atlanta to witness firsthand the result of this investment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROTECTING HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT AND COMMUNITY CLINIC SERVICES ACT OF 2008 (H.R. 7219)

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, on September 29, 2008, I introduced legislation, the Protecting Hospital Outpatient and Community Clinic Services Act of 2008 (H.R. 7219), which would prohibit the U.S. Secretary for Health and Human Services (HHS) from taking any action before April 1, 2009, to implement a proposed regulation related to the redefinition of Medicaid outpatient hospital services. This initiative was developed by HHS' Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and was published on September 28, 2007 (72 Federal Register 55158).

The proposal is designed to limit the definition and scope of Federally reimbursable Medicaid outpatient services provided in a hospital clinic or facility as well as those offered in a rural health clinic. CMS has stated that it is unable to determine the fiscal impact of the rule and that they believe this measure would not significantly alter current practices in most states. However, the National Association of State Medicaid Directors (NASMD) reports that the proposed regulation "would significantly affect the Medicaid program in every state." According to one source, in New York State alone, health care providers would lose over \$452 million. It is important to note that this estimate, large as it is, excludes the costs encountered by hospital settings. By way of example, New York's 23rd Congressional District, which I have the privilege of representing, would lose over \$2.6 million in Federal funding. Moreover, even after attempting to fully analyze this complex regulation, New York State is still unable to fully assess the total magnitude of its impact.

Needless to say, such a loss of funding would have a devastating impact upon the health care infrastructure, and thus the residents, of Northern and Central New York. Specifically, several constituent providers have estimated the proposed rule would not only reduce their ability to provide critical services to some of our nation's most vulnerable individuals but also literally force these providers out of business.

As stated above, CMS readily admits, it does not fully understand the impact of its actions. The State of New York has documented that the proposal would result in significant negative consequences. In the face of such circumstances, prudence demands that the rule's actual consequences be thoroughly examined, and well understood, before its implementation. H.R. 7219 would provide CMS, and Congress, until April 1, 2009, to closely examine the proposed rule and act accordingly. Thus, I urge my colleagues to join with me to enact this legislation before the conclusion of the 110th Congress.

IN SUPPORT OF TITLE H.R. 6503, TO AMEND THE VIOLENT CRIME CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1994 TO REAUTHORIZE THE MISSING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PATIENT ALERT PROGRAM

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, thank you for your leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I support H.R. 6503, to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Thousands of vulnerable older adults go missing each year as a result of dementia, diminished capacity, foul play or other unusual circumstances. The Alzheimer's Foundation of America estimates that over 5 million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's disease, and that 60 percent of these are likely to wander from their homes. Alzheimer's diseases and other dementia related illnesses often leave their victims disoriented and confused and unable to find their way home. According to the Alzheimer's Association, up to 50 of wanderers risk serious illness, injury or death if not found within 24 hours. The problem can be exacerbated greatly by national disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina, that can, in a matter of hours, increase the number of missing persons by the thousands.

H.R. 6503 reauthorizes the existing Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program. The bill authorizes \$5 million for each fiscal year through 2015 for competitive grants to nonprofit organizations. The money may be used to pay for the "costs of planning, designing, establishing, and operating locally based, proactive programs to protect and locate missing patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and other missing elderly individuals." The bill states a preference for "national nonprofit organizations that have a direct line to patients, and families of patients, with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias."

When I consider the necessity of this bill, I am reminded about the time when I was personally called upon by a constituent in the 18th Congressional District in Texas. A few years back, the family of Mr. Sammy Kirk, enlisted my help in searching for Mr. Kirk. Mr. Kirk was an elderly man, suffering from Alzheimer's and he had wandered away from his family in Houston. He was lost. His family called me to help search for him. I, along with his family, searched many hours and many days. In total, I searched for 3 days for Mr. Kirk. Finally, Mr. Sammy Kirk was found. He was found and he was dead. He wandered many miles away from his family and was found dead along the bayou. It would have been so much easier, and his life could have been spared if there was an electronic monitoring service that could have been used to help keep Mr. Kirk close to his family and it would have certainly aided in our search for Mr. Kirk. An innocent, yet vulnerable, life could have been saved. This bill is necessary and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

IN RECOGNITION OF LIFETIME TELEVISION'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIGHT AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Lifetime Television for its vigorous and effective educational programs that help promote efforts to combat the epidemic of sexual assault that has afflicted our nation. Among other measures, Lifetime Television mounted an extraordinary campaign to inform its millions of viewers about the Debbie Smith Act that was enacted into law in 2004 as part of the Justice for All Act. A reauthorization bill passed both the House and Senate this year and awaits the President's signature.

Founded in 1984, Lifetime Television is a national leader in women's television that now serves 96 million households across America. One of the top-rated basic cable television networks in the world, Lifetime is committed to offering the highest quality entertainment and information programming, and educating viewers about a wide range of issues affecting women and their families.

Lifetime Television and its top leadership have also been remarkable in their commitment to serving their viewership through public education and outreach efforts. Countless not-for-profit and community-based organizations have benefitted from Lifetime's commitment to addressing critical issues in our society, increasing public awareness of violence against women, breast cancer, race relations, school bullying and AIDS. Many Members of Congress and government decision-makers from both sides of the aisle have praised Lifetime Television for helping to use its expansive reach as the most popular women's television network in the world to help generate support to enact sound public policies.

Lifetime Television's educational outreach efforts played an instrumental role helping to pass the Debbie Smith Act in 2004. Their educational efforts helped generate a groundswell of support from the public.

I was honored to name that bill after a courageous, determined advocate named Debbie Smith when I first introduced it in the 107th Congress. A rape survivor, she had been invited to testify before the House about the lack of resources to test DNA samples collected in rape and sexual assault cases. Her compelling testimony and relentless advocacy were instrumental in garnering support for the bill. The legislation increased federal spending on DNA evidence processing to \$151 million annually from fiscal year 2005 through 2009, and created a new grant program providing resources to sexual assault examiners and acquiring forensic equipment. It was called "the most important piece of anti-rape legislation that Congress has ever passed" by the Rape Abuse and Incest National Network, or RAINN.

Lifetime has maintained that degree of commitment throughout the course of its Emmy Award-winning "End Violence Against Women" campaign over the last seven years. Lifetime Television later dramatized Debbie Smith's inspirational activism in an original